

Military
Research
From 1850
Though to the
End of the Civil
War 1865

Military Research SIG
Albuquerque Genealogical Society

Agenda

Introduction

Compromise of 1850

Political and Social Climate

The Presidential Election of 1860

Civil War

Military Leaders

Civil War Battles

Civil War Prison Camps

Where are they?

Slavery

New Mexico – Civil War Records

Introduction

Conflict Between Northern and Southern States

- Different philosophies and beliefs
- Slavery abolished in Northern States since 1804

Abolitionist Movement

- Gained momentum towards the end of the 1840s
- Called for an outright ban on slavery

Southern Dependence on Slavery

- Needed cheap labor for cotton plantations

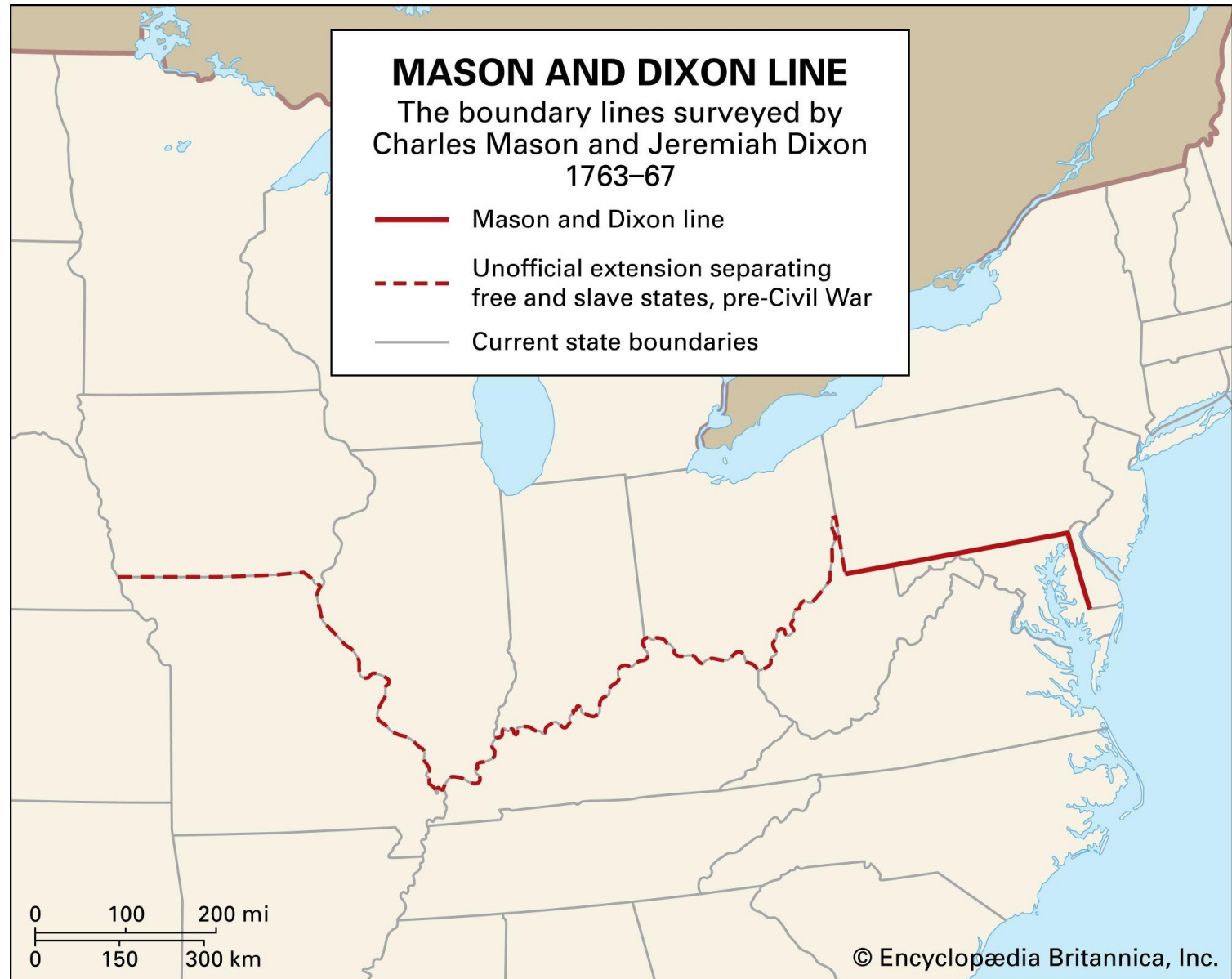
Congressional Efforts to Balance Slavery Issue

- Mason-Dixon Line as a demarcation
- California's petition for statehood increased tensions

Mason-Dixon Line

Mason-Dixon Line, originally the boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania in the United States. In the pre-Civil War period it was regarded, together with the Ohio River, as the dividing line between slave states south of it and free-soil states north of it.

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Mason-and-Dixon-Line>



Summary of the Agreement

The Compromise of 1850 consists of five laws passed in September 1850 that dealt with the issue of slavery. In 1849 California requested permission to enter the Union as a free state, potentially upsetting the balance between the free and slave states in the U.S. Senate. Senator Henry Clay introduced a series of resolutions on January 29, 1850, in an attempt to seek a compromise and avert a crisis between North and South.



<https://www.loc.gov/item/2014645186/>

The United States Senate,
A.D. 1850. Drawn by P. F.
Rothermel; engraved by R.
Whitechurch. c1855. Prints
and Photographs
Division. Reproduction
Number: LC-USZCN4-149

Summary of the Agreement

As part of the Compromise of 1850, the [Fugitive Slave Act was amended](#) and the [slave trade in Washington, D.C.](#), was abolished.

Furthermore, [California entered the Union](#) as a free state and a territorial government was created in [Utah](#).

In addition, an act was passed settling a [boundary dispute between Texas and New Mexico](#) that also established a territorial government in New Mexico. [The Library of Congress](#)

<https://guides.loc.gov/compromise-1850>



Other Events

1852

- Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes Uncle Tom's Cabin
- Franklin Pierce elected president

1853

- Gadsden Purchase negotiated

1854

- Congress passes Kansas-Nebraska Act
- Republican Party forms

Significant Outcomes

Border Ruffians Burn Lawrence, Kansas

- Violent attack on the anti-slavery town
- Part of the Bleeding Kansas conflicts

Pottawatomie Massacre

- Led by abolitionist John Brown
- Retaliation against pro-slavery forces

Charles Sumner Attacked in the Senate

- Assaulted by Representative Preston Brooks
- Incident highlighted tensions over slavery

James Buchanan Elected President

- 15th President of the United States
- His presidency faced the secession crisis

Bounty-Land Warrants

Acts granting bounty-land warrants

- Included acts from 1850, 1852, and 1855
- Covered service in Indian wars from 1790 to Civil War

Specific wars covered

- Revolutionary War (1788, 1803, 1806, 1855)
- War of 1812 (1811/1812, 1842, 1850, 1852, 1855)
- Mexican-American War (1847)

Contents of bounty-land warrant files

- Supporting documents like statements and signatures of witnesses
- Less personal information compared to pensions

End of issuance

- Government stopped issuing bounty-land warrants after 1855

Candidates and Results Election of 1860

Collision of Northern and Southern States

- Philosophies and beliefs were out of sync
- Slavery abolished in Northern States since 1804

Abolitionist Movement

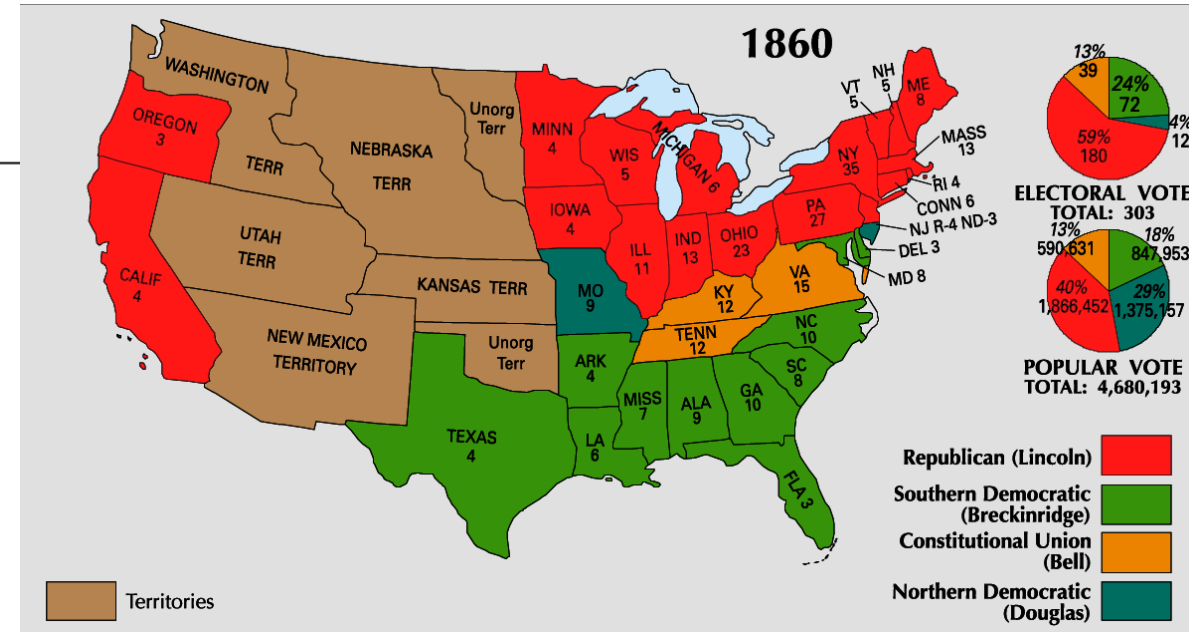
- Wanted outright ban on slavery by late 1840s
- Southern plantations needed cheap labor for cotton

Congressional Efforts

- Attempted to balance slavery issue as territories petitioned for statehood
- Mason-Dixon Line demarcated free and slave states

California's Petition for Statehood

- Created further divisions between North and South



Implications of the Election

Slavery as the Main Issue

- North viewed slavery as the primary cause of conflict

Southern Perspective

- South believed the war was about Federal Government's reach into States' rights

Interconnection of Slavery and Economics

- Slavery and economics were inseparable issues
- Both factors contributed to the nation's drive to war

Additional Resources on Slavery

More information on Slavery can be found here.

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/enslavement/index.htm>

Heinonline (Registration Required) –
Slavery in America

<https://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?collection=slavery>

Factors Leading to War

Other Involved Factors -
economic policy,
legislative
representation as voting
power, religion, State's
Rights, sectionalism,
etc.” civilwar.com

Failure of Diplomacy

- Resulted in unprecedented bloodshed and hardship
- Contributed by multiple factors

North's Motives

- Preservation of the Union
- Secondary motive to free the slaves

South's Motives

- State's Rights centered around slavery
- Slavery as property

Political Disagreements

- Protection of slavery in the Constitution

Secession and Initial Conflicts

South Carolina Secedes

- December 20, 1860
- Triggered by Abraham Lincoln's election

Additional States Secede

- Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas
- Within 2 months of South Carolina

Lincoln's Inauguration

- March 4, 1861
- 16th President of the United States

Opening Shots at Fort Sumter

- April 12, 1861

Formation of the Confederate States

Casualties and Outcomes

High Casualties

- 620,000 to 750,000 soldiers dead
- Out of 3.2 million soldiers from both sides

Collapse of the Confederacy

- End of the Confederate States of America

Emancipation of Slaves

- 4 million slaves freed

Economic Devastation

- Southern economy shattered

Infrastructure Destruction

- Southern infrastructure destroyed

More Outcomes



14th Amendment Ratified All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Reconstruction

Reconstruction, following the American Civil War (1861-1865), was the period from 1865 to 1877 focused on reintegrating Confederate states and newly freed Black Americans into the Union. This era involved significant political, social, and economic changes aimed at rebuilding the South and defining the rights of formerly enslaved people.



During the Civil War, the Springfield Model 1861 musket was the standard issue rifle-musket for the Union Army. The weapon was also widely used by the Confederate Army, and an estimated one million were manufactured during the war.

Springfield Model 1861 Rifle Musket: The Principal Infantry Weapon of the Civil War

<https://blog.fold3.com/springfield-model-1861-rifle-musket-the-principal-infantry-weapon-of-the-civil-war/>

Technological Innovations

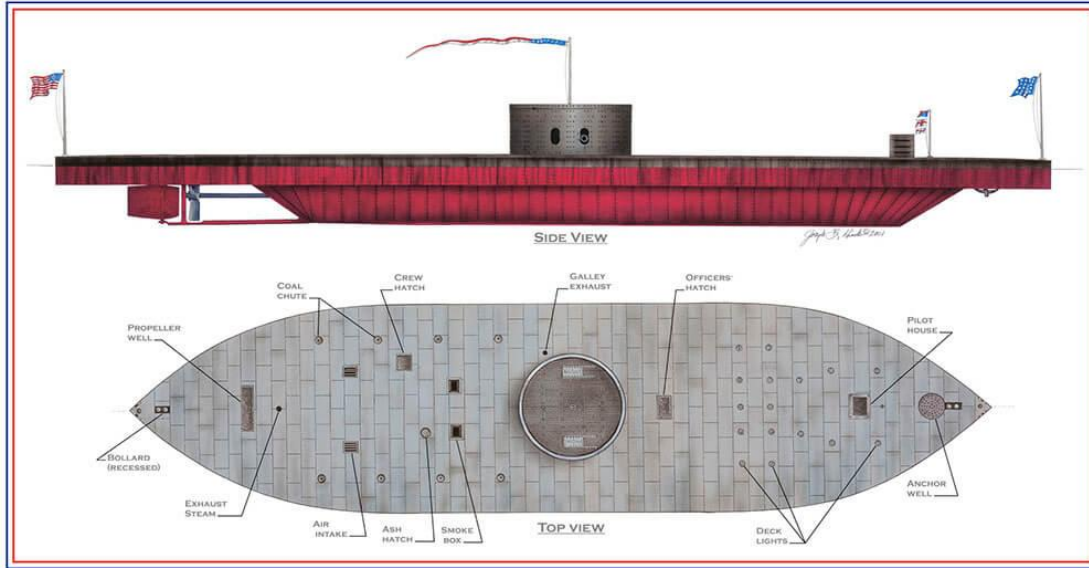
Communications and Transport

- Telegraph for instant communication
- Aerial reconnaissance using hot air balloons
- Railroads for efficient troop movement
- Army ambulance corps for medical support

Weapons and Ships

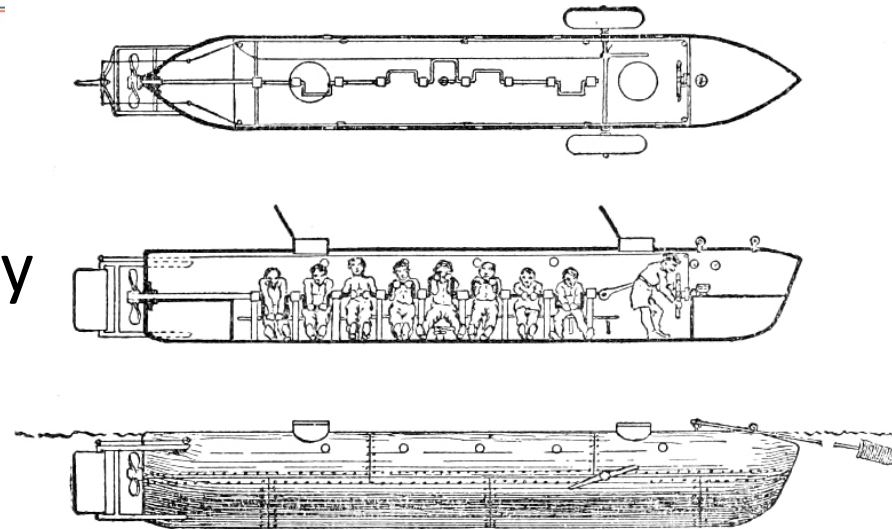
- USS Monitor, CSS Virginia, CSS Hunley
- Long-Range Weapons and the Minié bullet
- The Gatling gun for rapid fire





CSS Virginia

CSS Hunley



Union Generals

Ulysses S. Grant

George McClellan

William Tecumseh Sherman

George Meade (Gettysburg)

Robert Anderson (Fort Sumter)

George Custer

Winfield Scott Hancock

Confederate Generals

Robert E Lee

Stonewall Jackson

J.E.B. Stuart

Nathan Bedford Forrest

James Longstreet

Braxton Bragg

George Pickett

Military Leaders

Naming and Key Battles

Battle Naming Conventions

- North named battles after landmarks
- South named battles after towns

Examples of Battle Names

- North: Battle of Antietam and Second Battle of Bull Run
- South: Battles of Sharpsburg and Manassas

Resources for Battle Information

- Wikipedia: [List of American Civil War Battles](#)
- National Park Service: [Battlefield Preservation](#)
- Clemson University: Key Battles

Prison Conditions and Prisoner Exchange

Poor Living Conditions

- Prisoners faced harsh environments
- Food quality was typically poor

Prison Exchange System

- Equal exchanges of captured soldiers
- Soldiers could not take up arms until formally exchanged

Enlistment of Black Soldiers

- South refused equal treatment of black soldiers
- Black soldiers excluded from prisoner exchange

Suspension of Prisoner Exchange

- President Lincoln suspended exchange in 1863
- Suspension until Confederacy agreed to equal treatment

Civil War prisons were notorious for their harsh conditions and high mortality rates, particularly in the latter part of the war. Both Union and Confederate armies established prison camps, holding over 400,000 soldiers in total, with approximately 56,000 dying in captivity.

Key Aspects of Civil War Prisons:

- Scale of Imprisonment:**

Over 150 prison sites were established, holding both Union and Confederate soldiers.

- Failed Prisoner Exchange:**

The breakdown of the [prisoner exchange system](#) in 1863 led to a massive increase in the number of prisoners, exacerbating overcrowding and poor conditions in existing facilities.

- Southern Prisons:**

Confederate prisons like [Andersonville](#) (Camp Sumter) in Georgia are infamous for their high death rates due to overcrowding, disease, and inadequate supplies.

- Northern Prisons:**

While Northern prisons like [Elmira \(Hellmira\)](#) (New York) and [Camp Douglas](#) (Chicago) were also criticized for their conditions, Southern prisons often faced greater challenges due to the Confederacy's limited resources.

- High Mortality Rates:**

Death rates in Civil War prisons ranged from 10% to over 20%, with some Southern prisons experiencing mortality rates as high as 60%.

- Conditions:**

Prisoners suffered from inadequate shelter, clothing, and hygiene, as well as disease, starvation, and cruelty.

Examples of Noteworthy Prisons:

- Andersonville (Camp Sumter): The largest Confederate prison, notorious for its high death toll.
- Elmira (Hellmira): A Union prison in New York, known for its harsh conditions and high mortality rate.
- Camp Douglas: A Union prison in Chicago, notable for its high death rate among Confederate prisoners.
- Libby Prison: A Confederate prison in Richmond, Virginia, originally a tobacco warehouse.
- Belle Isle: A Confederate prison in Richmond, Virginia, on an island in the James River.
- Cahaba Prison: A Confederate prison in Dallas County, Alabama.

Resources on Prison Camps

American Civil War Prison Camps

- Wikipedia page with detailed information

Civil War Trust

- Educational resources on POW camps

Civil War Prisoner Records

- National Park Service database
- Fort McHenry, Baltimore and Andersonville

Confederate Prisoner of War Records

- FamilySearch Wiki



Union and Confederate Pension Records

Accessing Pension Records

- Available at the [National Archives](#)
- State-specific records can be found online

Researching Military History

- Useful for genealogical research
- Provides insights into Civil War veterans



Resources for Veterans

Sons of Confederate Veterans

- Website: <https://scv.org/>

National Park Service – Civil War

- Website: <https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>
- NPS Soldiers and Sailors Database
- Search database for family members
- Resources for both Confederate and Union Forces

The VA website

- Website: <https://www.va.gov/search/?query=Civil%20War%20Cemeteries&t=false>

National Archives

Fold3

Cyndi's List

Resources on Slavery

Heinonline

- Registration required
- Provides information on slavery in America

The Freedman Bureau Online

- Website: <http://www.freedmensbureau.com/>

Family Search Wiki

- African American Freedmen's Bureau Records
- Website:
[https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/African_American_Freedmen%27s Bureau Records](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/African_American_Freedmen%27s_Bureau_Records)



Free Genealogy Sites

[Rootsweb](#)

- Free genealogy site affiliated with Ancestry.com
- Connects people to share genealogical research

[Hathi Trust Digital Library](#)

- Partnership of academic & research institutions
- Millions of titles digitized from libraries worldwide

[FamilySearch](#)

- One of the largest non-profit databases of genealogical records
- Sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

[US GenWeb Project](#)

[US GenWeb Project - New Mexico](#)

[Cyndi's List](#)

New Mexico – Civil War Records

Family Search Wiki

- Provides historical records of Union soldiers
- Useful for genealogical research

Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness Website:

<https://www.facebook.com/raogkorg/>

- Moved to Facebook
- Offers resources for New Mexico genealogy
- Includes military records

Research Online

- Search for New Mexico Soldiers
- <https://newmexicogenealogy.com/military>
- Online tool for researching Civil War soldiers

